

TROPICAL STORM ZOLA (20W)

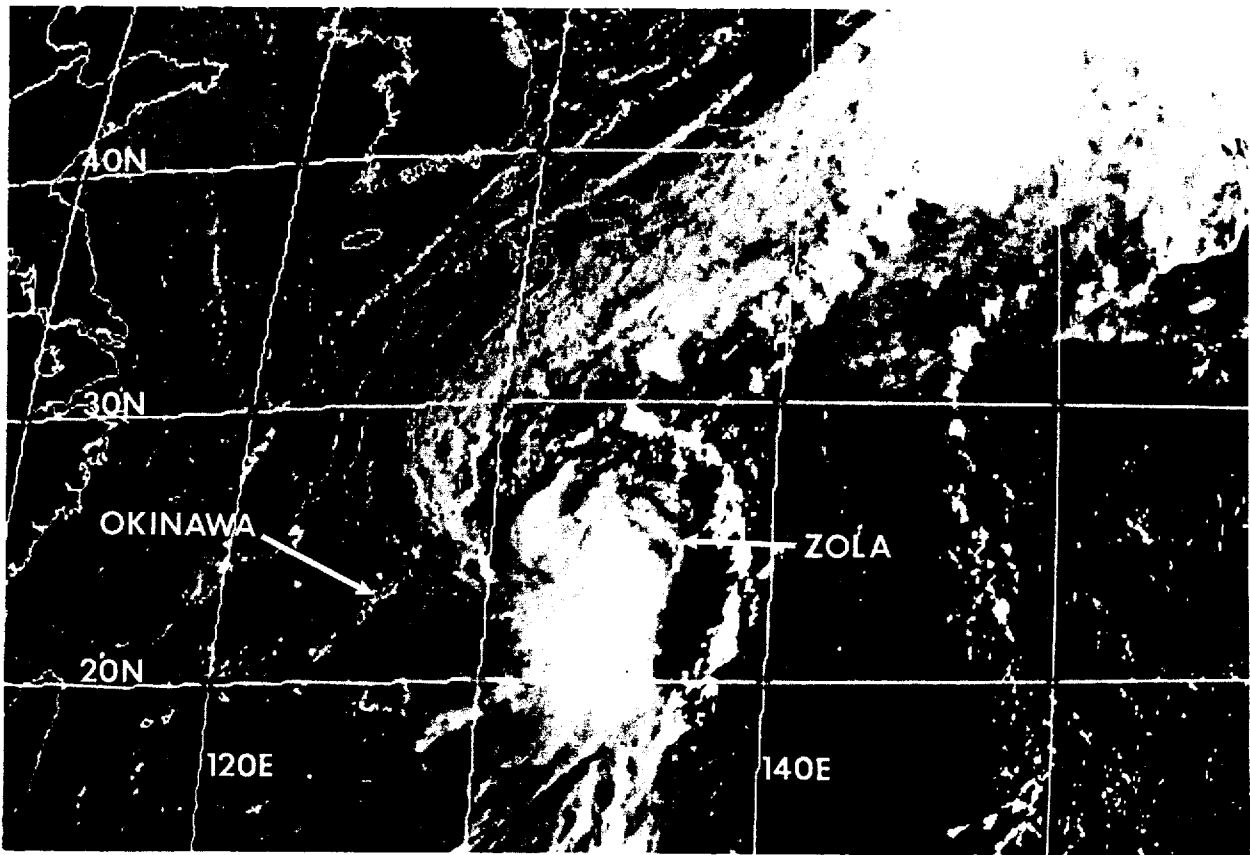


Figure 3-20-1 Zola at tropical storm intensity passes to the east of Okinawa (072230Z September visual GMS imagery).

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Forming within the monsoon trough in the Philippine Sea, Zola was the first of six significant tropical cyclones to occur during September. Steadily accelerating north-northeastward and passing east of Okinawa (Figure 3-20-1), Zola reached it's maximum intensity of 55 kt (28 m/sec) just prior to landfall in Japan.

II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

September

030600Z - An area of convection within the monsoon trough, east of Luzon, resulted in the first mention of the disturbance in the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory.

050800Z - Increased convective organization, southwest of a cyclonic cell in the Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT), led to the issuance of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert on the disturbance.

051200Z - The first warning was issued based on improved convective curvature and a satellite intensity estimate of 25 kt (13 m/sec).

061200Z - Based on a satellite intensity estimate of 35 kt (18 m/sec), Zola was upgraded to tropical storm intensity.

090600Z - The final warning was issued as Zola transitioned into an extratropical low over Honshu, Japan.

III. IMPACT

Press reports indicated that heavy rains associated with Zola flooded homes, caused landslides, and stopped train service in Wakayama, a Japanese prefecture 280 nm (520 km) southwest of Tokyo.